



CRANE ENGINEERING

Crane File No.: B7990
Crane Descriptor: SUP – WEST FERTILIZER – WEST TEXAS

Date: May 21-22, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Locations: KC Hall West Texas
2547 Jerry Masked Drive
West, Texas 76691

West Fertilizer Company
1471 Jerry Mashek Drive
West, Texas 76691-1862

Phase 1 Inspection Protocol

This protocol is for the Phase 1 Inspection of the West Fertilizer Company site. The inspection will begin Tuesday May 21, 2013 and continue if necessary on Wednesday May 22, 2013.

Prior to inspection of the site interested parties will meet at: KC Hall West Texas, 2547 Jerry Mashek Drive, West, TX 76691. An overview of the site, document distribution and a review of the site safety plan will be presented.

Per the notice letter provided in this matter, **on or before noon on May 20, 2013 the following information must be received in order to gain admittance to the site:**

1. A complete list of the persons intending to have access to the site and the identification of which party(ies) they represent and what company, firm or other entity they work for, and a cell phone number.
2. Each person on the list must present a business card at the time they sign in on May 21 and 22, 2013.
3. Each person must bring with him/her a government-issued photo identification card before being allowed to enter the site.

Please provide this information to Heather Charette at Crane Engineering prior to noon on May 20, 2013 as follows:

Heather C. Charette
Legal Services Project Coordinator
Crane Engineering
Telephone (763) 557-9090
Toll Free (800) 538-2797
heatherc@CraneEngineering.com

Atty. John V. McCoy
McCoy Leavitt Laskey LLC
Telephone (262) 522-7000
Toll Free (800) 599-8300
jmccoy@MLLlaw.com

Individuals must be on this list in order to be allowed on the site. Admittance will require proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) as outlined in the Site Safety Plan included with this protocol.

An explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Plant on April 17, 2013 resulting in numerous fatalities, injuries and damages to property. The plant mixed and sold chemical agricultural products. The following may be present on the site included but not limited to:

- Ammonium nitrate
- Anhydrous ammonia
- Granzonnext
- Reclaim
- Remedy Ultra
- Surmount
- Yuma
- Di-ammonium phosphate
- Potassium Chloride
- Ammonium Sulfate
- Potassium Magnesium sulfate
- Zink sulfate
- Calcium carbonate

Lauderdale Environmental developed a site safety plan which was sent to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for review. The plan is included with this protocol.

After the incident, the site was secured by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Texas State Fire Marshal's office in order to investigate the matter. Their investigation was closed to the public. They have completed their onsite investigation and have attempted to place artifacts that they removed in the course of their investigation back in the general locations where they were recovered. The ATF report on their findings is pending and has not been released to the public.

On or about May 17, 2013 the ATF expects to release the site to Crane Engineering who has been retained to act as site manager. The role of Crane Engineering is to act as an independent and neutral facilitator for the private sector investigation of this matter following, to the extent practicable, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations.

It is our goal to guide this investigation in a fair and timely manner. A steering committee made up of one representative from each of the interested parties will be commissioned at the end of the walk through on the first day. The purpose of this committee will be to generate inspection protocols for the next phase of the investigation in this matter.



Phase 1 Initial Walk Through

The goal of the Phase 1 Inspection is to allow interested parties an opportunity to walk through the site and photo document it in the state it was in when the ATF released it. Once the interested parties have completed their walk-through, adjustors working for the property insurance carrier will be allowed on site to document vehicles and equipment present. The steering committee will meet on the second day to discuss the investigation moving forward and to discuss site activities between Phase 1 and Phase 2.

The steering committee will also review and approve a protocol to remove approximately 100 tons of ammonium nitrate from a rail car that was tipped over and damaged during the event.

This completes Phase 1 of the investigation.

Clearing Southern Sector (May 27, 2013 to completion)

The southern sector of the site will be cleared of equipment and debris that the TCEQ and Crane Engineering consider to be health and environmental hazards that were not contributory to the event. These items include:

- 50 anhydrous nurse tank trailers
- Semi tractors and trailers
- Two liquid fertilizer trailers (poly tanks)
- One mixed pile of fertilizer and various chemicals
- Miscellaneous debris
- One corn pile on the ground
- One pile of agricultural chemicals in south west corner of the property

The site will be closed to investigation. However, interested parties may send one observer to document the removal of the items in the southern section but they may not participate in or hinder operations.

The items will be removed by a salvage contractor hired by the insurance company. The contractor will have all of the proper documentation, permits and qualifications per the TCEQ and the Office of the Texas State Chemists to remove, transport and dispose of these items.

Closed Site Removal of Ammonium Nitrate (upon completion of clearing of Southern Sector)

Ammonium nitrate (AN) is a strong oxidizer and poses a serious safety risk when it is mixed with organic material and exposed to the elements. The material was spilled on the ground and has mixed with organic debris. It has also been exposed to the elements for four weeks.

A protocol for the removal of the AN will be developed separate from the steering committee with guidance from experts in the manufacturing and handling of AN and the appropriate state agencies. The material will be removed prior to the second inspection. For safety reasons the site will be closed to all but necessary personnel during the collection process.

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The material will be weighed, if possible, to determine the amount of AN present and then processed per the instructions of The Office of the Texas State Chemist which has jurisdiction on the proper disposal of this material. The collection and removal process will be video documented and provided to the interested parties.

This protocol is subject to change by agreement of participating parties.

Prepared by:
Matthew W. Wilber, CGE, CFEI
Charles G. Keith, P.E.

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